

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 109598

R 191400Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6996

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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TOKYO FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US

SUBJECT: CHAVAN'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENTS ON US ARMS TO
PAKISTAN

1. WE HAVE STUDIED THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE FEBRUARY 18
"CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE" DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT AND
FIND THAT REFTEL ACCURATELY REPORTS THE EXTEMPORANEOUS
STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Y.B. CHAVAN.
IN ORDER THAT ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE A MORE PRECISE RECORD OF
HIS STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, WE QUOTE PORTIONS OF THE MORE
IMPORTANT ANSWERS CHAVAN GAVE. THE STATEMENTS OF HIS
INTERROGATORS ARE SUMMARIZED.

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2. IN THE LOK SABHA DEBATE:

P.M. MEHTA (CONGRESS O): WHAT ARE THE FACTORS IN THE US DECISION TO RESUME THE ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN AND WHAT STEPS DOES THE GOI PLAN TO CONVINCE THE US THAT THIS DECISION WILL CREATE INSTABILITY AND LEAD TO CONFRONTATION?

Y.B. CHAVAN: ... SO FAR AS MY INFORMATION GOES, THEY (THE US) HAVE NOT ANNOUNCED THEIR DECISION... IN THE HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND USA AND PAKISTAN AND INDIA THE BASIC POINT HAS BEEN THAT THE UNITED STATES ALWAYS TRIED TO BELIEVE IN THE PRINCIPLE OF BALANCE OF POWER IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, IN A WAY ENCOURAGING SOME SORT OF ARMS RACE THERE. THE REAL ANSWER FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIAN AND THE UNITED STATES WAS THAT THEY MUST GIVE UP THIS POSTURE OF TRYING TO PLAY THE BALANCE OF POWER. THE SPECIFIC THING THAT WAS TOLD US HERE WAS THAT (THE) UNITED STATES NO LONGER BELIEVES IN THE PLAYING OF BALANCE OF POWER THING IN THE SUB-CONTINENT. OUR BASIC POINT IS THAT IF THEY SUPPLY ARMS TO PAKISTAN, IT WILL CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA AND IT WOULD BE GOING BACK ON THIS ASSURANCE GIVEN TO INDIA.

3. IN THE RAJYA SABHA DEBATE:

H.D. MALAVIYA (CONGRESS): HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNICATION YOU SENT TO THE US SECRETARY OF STATE.

Y. B. CHAVAN .. NO RESPONSE AS SUCH HAS FORMALLY BEEN RECEIVED BUT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE LETTER WAS THIS. WE THOUGHT THAT, WHEN MR. BHUTTO WAS VISITING AMERICA AND WE FOUND THAT HE WAS GOING TO RAISE THE PROBLEM OF ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN, IT WAS BETTER BEFORE MR. BHUTTO REACHED THERE, THEY KNEW WHAT INDIA'S REACTON WAS.

(JANA SANGH) SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: YOU OVERDID THE WELCOME TO KISSINGER AND ISAID SO AT THAT TIME.

Y.B. CHAVAN: WE WELCOME WHEN WE INVITE A GUEST HERE. WE GIVE THEM NORMAL WELCOME. BUT WHAT WE TOLD HIM IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT AND WHAT HE TOLD US IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE CATEGORICALLY TOLD HIM EXACTLY WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF (THESE) UPS-AND-DOWNS BETWEEN THE USA AND INDIA.

RABI RAY (BKD): DO YOU THINK HE WENT BACK ON HIS WORDS, WENT BACK ON THE PROMISES WHICH HE GAVE YOU?

Y. B. CHAVAN: IF ARMS SUPPLY IS MADE TO PAKISTAN, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE HAS GONE AGAINST HIS WORDS. IT WILL BE VERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBVIOUS. THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT.

K. M. KURIAN (CPM): WHY DO YOU ADD THE WORD "IF"?

Y.B. CHAVAN: BECAUSE I MUST GO ON THE DECLARED AND STATED FACTS. I AM SPEAKING RESPONSIBLY HERE. MY FEARS ARE THAT POSSIBLY IT IS TRUE. BUT AS LONG AS IT IS NOT YET ANNOUNCED, I MUST GO ON THAT BASIS... THEREFORE WE ARE STILL MAKING EFFORTS TO SEE THAT SOME WISER COUNSEL WILL PREVAIL THERE AND THEY WILL DESIST FROM SUPPLYING ARMS TO PAKISTAN... NOW

IF THEY SUPPLY ARMS, WHATEVER ARE THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCES,
THEY WILL FOLLOW. IF THEY DO NOT KEEP THEIR WORD, WE WILL
TAKE OUR OWN POSITIONS AND SEE WHAT REASONABLE THING WE CAN DO.
K. M. KURIAN (CPM): IS THE GOI PREPARED TO REVERSE ITS POLICY
IF IT RECEIVES ECONOMIC AID.?

Y.B. CHAVAN: ... THERE IS NO RELATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC
AID AND COOPERATION THAT THEY (THE US) GIVE US AND OUR ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE ARMS SUPPLY. THE US ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN
WILL BE TAKEN AS A PROOF OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE OLD POLICY
OF THE US...NO ECONOMIC AID IS GOING TO DETER US FROM TAKING
THE RIGHT COURSE OR THE COURSE WHICH IS IN THE INTEREST AND
SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY.

M.G. REDDY (CONGRESS): WHEN THE MINISTER GOES TO THE US
NEXT MONTH WOULD HE IMPRESS UPON THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
THE PRESIDENT THAT THIS REPORTED DECISION TO SUPPLY ARMS TO
PAKISTAN SHOULD BE REVERSED IN THE INTEREST OF THE SUB-CONTINENT?
Y.B. CHAVAN: AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, THE PRESENT
EXERCISE, THIS CALLING ATTENTION AND DISCUSSION IN THIS HOUSE,
IS REALLY SPEAKING ONE OF THE IMPORTANT STEPS TO SEE THAT WISE
COUNSEL PREVAILS UPON THE US AUTHORITIES IN THIS MATTER. IF
AT ALL I HAPPEN TO GO TO THE USA -I AM NOT SURE OF IT, THOUGH
THE DATES ARE FIXED IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH AND IF BY THAT TIME
THE DECISION IS NOT TAKEN, CERTAINLY I WILL TRY TO STRONGLY EXPRESS
THE VIEW OF THIS COUNTRY AND SEE THAT SOME WISDOM PREVAILS
THERE.
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